

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, ICAO, FAO, CA

SUBJ: CANDIDACIES FOR UN POSITIONS: ICAO, FAO, WFP

REF: (A) OTTAWA 671; (B) STATE 48640

1. ECON COUNSELOR AND TCO MET MARCH 3 WITH HARDY (DIRECTOR-GENERAL, UN BUREAU, EXTAF) TO REVIEW ISSUES RAISED IN TCO'S DISCUSSION WITH ROBERTSON ON FEB 19 (REF A). (ROBERTSON IS CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE DUE TO PROMOTION BOARD DUTY.) CONVERSATION DEALT WITH (A) DILLON CANDIDACY FOR ICAO SECRETARY-GENERAL (B) ABORTIVE HOPPER CANDIDACY FOR FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL LAST FALL AND (C) VOGEL CANDIDACY FOR WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

2. ICAO. ECON COUNSELOR REITERATED REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR DILLON WHO U.S. IS SURE HAS PERSONAL QUALITIES, SUBSTANTIVE EXPERTISE, AND MANAGERIAL ABILITIES REQUIRED FOR JOB. HARDY RAISED NO QUESTION ABOUT DILLON'S QUALIFICATION BUT COMMENTED THAT FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAD MADE IDENTICAL PTICH TO HIM RE FRANCH CANDIDATE. THE FRENCH PRESSURES ON BEHALF OF LAMBERT, HE SAID, WERE STRONG BUT THE BRITISH HAD NOT BEEN IN YET TO TALK ABOUT VAUGHAN. HARDY SAID CANADA
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HAS DECIDED THAT, AS HOST COUNTRY FOR ICAO AND HAVING

HELD SENIOR ICAO POSTS IN PAST, IT WILL NOT FIELD A CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY-GENERALSHIP. GOC'S PRIMARY INTEREST IS IN HAVING A CANDIDATE FROM A DEVELOPED COUNTRY ELECTED TO THE JOB AND IT IS CONCERNED THAT THERE ARE NOW THREE COMPETING DC CANDIDATES. HE WONDERED WHAT HAD CAUSED USG TO PUT DILLON'S NAME FORWARD WHEN LAMBERT AND VAUGHAN WERE ALREADY IN THE COMPETITION. (TCO SAID IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT DILLON'S NOMINATION CAME AFTER LAMBERT'S BUT BEFORE VAUGHAN'S). HARDY SAID HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN REACTIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO DILLON AND ASKED THAT WE KEEP IN TOUCH ON MATTER. HE SAID EXTAFF IS THE DECISION-MAKING AGENCY WITHIN GOC BUT CONSULTS WITH MOT. EXTAFF EXPECTS TO RECEIVE A RECOMMENDATION FROM MOT VERY SHORTLY AND TO MAKE A DECISION NEXT WEEK.

2. FAO. ECON COUNSELOR REFERRED TO ROBERTSON'S CRITICAL COMMENTS ABOUT ACTIONS OF U.S. DELEGATION TO 18TH FAO CONFERENCE AND SAID HE WANTED TO REVIEW WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN ROME IN HOPES OF CLARING UP MISUNDERSTANDINGS. HE OUTLINED CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS AS REPORTED REFTEL B AND ROME'S 16329, EMPHASIZING THAT U.S. HAD HIGH REGARD FOR HOPPER, HAD SUPPORTED HIM ON FIRST BALLOT, AND HAD MOVED TO SAOUMA ONLY AFTER IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT SAOUMA WOULD WIN ON SECOND BALLOT IN ANY EVENT. HE POINTED OUT THAT USDEL HAD LAID ITS CARDS ON TABLE WITH HOPPER AND ADVISED HIM OF INTENTION TO SHIFT BEFORE SECOND BALLOT. ECON COUNSELOR ALSO NOTED THAT U.S. DELEGATION HAD ACTED ON BASIS OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON. HARDY AND PERRY ABOLS WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT (AND WHO SAID HE ACTED AS "ANCHOR MAN" FOR HOPPER'S EFFORT IN ROME) DID NOT CONTEST DESCRIPTION OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED BUT DID QUESTION U.S. DEL'S JUDGMENT. THEY TOUGHT U.S. DEL HAD MOVED PREMATURELY, AND SUGGESTED THAT IF U.S. HAD LET IT BE KNOWN THAT IT WAS STANDING FIRM BEHIND HOPPER, HOPPER MIGHT HAVE GATHERED SUBSTANTIAL SECOND BALLOT STRENGTH AND OUTCOME MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT. AFTER A GOOD DEAL OF HYPOTHETICAL DISCUSSION, HARDY COMMENTED THAT NO ONE CAN PROVE WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED, ADMITTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT HOPPER PROBABLY WOULD NOT HAVE WON ANYWAY, AND SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS BEST TO PUT THE PAST BEHIND AND LOOK TO THE FUTURE. (EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE WE ARE UNLIKELY EVER TO CONVINCE GOC THAT USG DID ITS BEST FOR HOPPER, EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS FRANK DISCUSSION SHOULD CLEAR THE AIR WITH EXTAFF'S UN BUREAU. HOPEFULLY, WE HAVE HEARD THE LAST OF THE RECRIMINATIONS ABOUT HOPPER INCIDENT).

4. WFP: HARDY ASKED ABOUT USG ATTITUDE ON VOGEL CANDIDACY. WITHOUT PRESSING THE POINT, HE NOTED "NEW" USG POSITION THAT IT EXPECTED ITS FRIENDS TO VOTE THE RIGHT WAY ON MATTERS OF IMPORTANT INTEREST TO IT AND SAID THIS SHOULD WORK BOTH WAYS. ECON COUNSELOR SAID THAT, AS FAR AS HE WAS AWARE, USG HAD NOT TAKEN A POSITION ON WFP LEADERSHIP WHICH OF COURSE WOULD NOT BE DECIDED BY VOTE BUT BY DECISION OF FAO DG AND UNSYG. HE SAID USG HAD IMPRESSION SAOUMA IS NOT INCLINED TO APPOINT CANDIDATE FROM LEADING AGRICULTURAL NATION AND ASKED WHETHER GOC HAD SIMILAR IMPRESSION. HARDY SAID GOC NOT CLEAR AS TO WHAT SAOUMA'S INTENTIONS MAY BE. HE NOTED THAT IT IS DC'S TURN FOR POST. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD U.S. IS INTERESTED IN DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION FOR MOREY. HE IS CONCERNED THAT SAOUMA MIGHT DECIDE THAT HE COULD NOT HAVE A CANADIAN AND AN AMERICAN IN TWO TOP JOBS AND COULD NOT AFFORD TO OFFEND EITHER U.S. OR CANADA BY APPROVING ONE OF THEIR CANDIDATES AND NOT THE OTHER AND SO WOULD TURN DOWN BOTH. HARDY AND ECON COUNSELOR AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR USG AND GOC TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH ON THIS QUESTION.

5. AS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST AND RELEVANCE TO WFP SITUATION, DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATION ON HOPPER AND FAO, ABOLS MENTIONED THAT SOUMA WAS UPSET THAT FOUR COUNTRIES HAD VOTED AGAINST HIM ON SECOND BALLOT AT ROME. HARDY ASKED "DOES SAOUMA THINK CANADA WAS ONE OF THOSE?" ABOLS SAID THIS WAS A POSSIBILITY, ALTHOUGH EVEN HE (ABOLS) DID NOT KNOW HOW CANADIAN MINISTER (HEAD OF DEL) HAD VOTED ON SECOND SECRET BALLOT.

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6. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT WE CONSULT FURTHER WITH GOC ABOUT RESPECTIVE INTERESTS IN WFP WITH VIEW TO AVOIDING ANOTHER INCIDENT THAT WILL GENERATE ILL FEELING. WE HAVE CLEAR IMPRESSION GOC WOULD WELCOME SUCH CONSULTATION. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS AND GUIDANCE. ENDERS

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